

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Fayetteville

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Davis House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

910 Arsenal Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Vacant</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Historic Fayetteville Foundation Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1507

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28302

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2039

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

North Carolina 28302

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

March 31, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE

1-919-733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Davis House (c. 1870) is a modest two-story three-bay frame dwelling with a gable roof and rear ell which, with its Victorian ornament, stems from the picturesque traditions of the nineteenth century. It was located in the then-developing westward region bordering Fayetteville known as Haymount, between the Morganton Road, a main transportation route, and the lands of the former United States Arsenal at Fayetteville. John Davis, the original owner, operated a general grocery store located at the opposite end of the Haymount lot facing well-traveled Morganton Road.

The two-story frame dwelling rests on a brick pier foundation and is sheathed with plain weatherboard. A one story shed roof porch, supported by four chamfered posts with lacy sawn brackets, spans approximately three-fourths of the front facade. It shields a three-bay front consisting of a single entrance in the central bay, flanked by a 6/6 sash window to the left and a 6/9 sash window to the right. The front door, with its single upper pane surrounded by small colored glass lights, is a later nineteenth century Victorian addition. Second story fenestration consists of four, six-lights reduced sized windows with simple board surrounds and slip sills. Capping the main block is a common gable roof with distinctive flared ends and exposed rafters. A single central plaster-covered chimney projects from the ridge.

The dwelling, once extensively overbuilt to the rear, now hosts only a frame ell with a plastered exterior end chimney. The ell was either original to the house or a very early addition. It is flanked by a screened porch.

The interior of the John Davis House follows a simple four-room plan, with two principal rooms flanking the central chimney on each of the two floors. The front entrance opens into a small vestibule, from which the lower floor rooms are accessible. The upstairs rooms are accessible via a rear staircase whose opening on the lower level appears to have been moved from the east room to a rear door. Rooms on both levels are served by shallow back-to-back fireplaces, the lower ones which bear unusual but simple curved wooden ornament. Floors throughout are covered with uniform, narrow-width machine-sawn boards, except in the rear ell where flooring consists of wide pine boards.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

 X

_____ LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Davis House c. 1870 is a diminutive two-story dwelling located in a section of Haymount which in the postwar years -- especially after the 1870s parceling of the former Arsenal lands -- was just beginning to develop residentially. The house was located behind the family grocery store, both built, established, and maintained by John Davis throughout the late nineteenth century on the main trade and transportation route west of Fayetteville. It was continued by his son, John Jr., throughout the early twentieth century. The house is one of the few in Fayetteville to reflect the picturesque traditions of mid-nineteenth century Victorian architecture with its two-story frame construction, front porch with chamfered posts and lacy sawn brackets, and gable roof with unusual flared eaves. It is unique architecturally and is part of a trend toward Haymount residential development which, with roots early in the century, expanded and accelerated around the turn of the present century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The John Davis House, associated with the family grocery store once operated at the other end of the block, was built as part of a trend toward residential development of Fayetteville's western district--Haymount--in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. This development, which proceeded logically along the main routes of trade and transportation, accelerated especially after the parceling and sale of nearby Arsenal lands in the 1870s.

- C. The diminutive John Davis House reflects some of the picturesque traditions of mid-nineteenth century Victorian architecture with its two-story frame construction, front porch with chamfered posts and sawn brackets, and gable roof with uncommon flared eaves.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1870, John Davis purchased a lot adjacent to the former United States Arsenal grounds in Haymount which soon became the site of his house and store.¹ He appears to have been a farsighted man who accurately judged the trends which neighborhood development was to follow throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In many ways, he was a typical man who ran a typical general grocery store business, but who chose to locate in Haymount which was centered on the main transportation/trade route between Fayetteville and western North Carolina. His land was close to that of the former United States Arsenal site which soon was to be parceled and sold for residential purposes also. Haymount had begun to develop residentially in the early nineteenth century, but it blossomed in the late nineteenth century as local population and economic surges forced westward residential expansion and development. John Davis was in a position and location to take advantage of the changing trends affecting the town of Fayetteville nearby.

John Davis lived in the Haymount residence during its early years with his wife, Percy, his six children, Ada, John, Willey, Alice, Joseph and Mattie, all born within thirteen years, and a sixty-year-old servant named Violet Brown.² He had served as a loyal Confederate soldier during the Civil War, enlisting in 1863 and serving first as a private in the 2nd Company B, 36th Regiment, North Carolina troops (2nd Regiment N. C. Artillery) and then transferring nine months later to Company B, 13th Battalion N.C. Light Artillery.³ He married Percy Ann Smith in 1866, the year after the war was over, and settled down to clerk in a store and raise a family.⁴ By the 1870s he had relocated, and had his own house and his own grocery business in Haymount. He became established in the location and family members were still located there until recently, on or near a street that intersected Arsenal Avenue and which bears their last name.

The Davis House was located at the northeast corner of Arsenal and Davis avenues behind the store which was situated at the other end of the lot facing Morganton Road, now Hay Street. John operated the grocery business until he died in 1893, at which time his sons, John A., Jr. and William H. took over for him.⁵ John Davis continued to live in the family home with his unmarried sister, Alice, as well as his widowed mother until she died in the second decade of the twentieth century.⁶ His brother, William, lived across the street (first

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre.

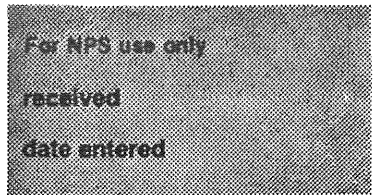
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 9 1 8 9 0	3 8 8 0 9 7 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 10, Block H, Map 62-1-4, Cross Creek Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

John Davis	Significance/		
House	Historical		
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915 [formerly 648] then 909 Arsenal Avenue.)⁷ They weathered the burning of their frame store in 1917 which was rebuilt in tapestry brick after the local fashion, shortly thereafter.⁸ This brick store still stands today.

John Davis, Jr. continued to live in his family house and carry on the business until he died in 1937.⁹ The house was sold to non-family members, Stancil and Lona Bell Edwards, by commissioners in 1941.¹⁰ It was used for rental purposes during the severe local housing shortage of the World War II era and afterward.¹¹ Ownership remained with Lona Bell until 1978 when she sold the house to Dr. and Mrs. Harold E. Maxwell.¹² They, in turn, have recently transferred title to the house to the Historic Fayetteville Foundation, with the hope that the building will be preserved.¹³

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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John Davis House
Continuation sheet

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Historical
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date entered

Reference Notes:

¹George R. Brewington to John Davis, April 7, 1870, Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Book 58, Page 471, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Deeds.

²Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Cumberland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Cross Creek Township, 556 B, microfilm of National Archives Manuscript Copy, Cumberland County Core Collection, Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

³Louis H. Manarin and Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. (eds.), North Carolina Troops, 1861 - 1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History [projected multivolume series, 1966--]) I, 200, 561.

⁴Genealogical Society of Utah, compilers and typists, Cumberland County Marriage Bonds to 1868 (with a few marriage licenses, 1869-1906) (Salt Lake City: 1937), 75, copy housed in Vital Statistics, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Cumberland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Cross Creek Township, 36, microfilm of National Archives Manuscript copy, Cumberland County Core Collection, Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

⁵Levi Branson, A.M., North Carolina Business Directory, 1896, (Raleigh: By the Author, 1896), 216; Fayetteville City Directory: 1909-10, 53; Cross Creek Cemetery Records, WPA, entry #62 under "D" in alphabetical listing, bound copy housed in the Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Cemetery Records with appropriate entry numbers.

⁶Fayetteville City Directory: 1909-10, 52-53; 1915-16, 124-25; 1924, 155; Cemetery Records, entry #77 under "D" in alphabetical listing.

⁷Fayetteville City Directories: 1909-10, 53; 1915-16, 125; 1924, 156; 1928, 96; 1937, 82.

⁸Lucile Johnson, "Davis House and Store Are Landmarks", Fayetteville Observer, 16 January 1966, 10E.

⁹Cemetery Records, entry #63 under "D" in alphabetical listing.

¹⁰Cumberland County Deeds, Book 438, Page 175.

¹¹Cumberland County Deeds, Book 2662, Page 842.

¹²Interviews with William Fields and Sue Bandy, local residents, by Linda Jasperse, 27 January 1982.

¹³Cumberland County Deeds, Book 2858, Page 435.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

John Davis House Bibliographical
References

Continuation sheet

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Bandy, Sue. Fayetteville, North Carolina. Interview by Linda Jasperse, 27 January 1982.

Branson, Levi A.M. North Carolina Business Directory. Raleigh: By the author, 1896.

City Directory for Fayetteville, North Carolina: 1909-10, 1915-16, 1924, 1928, 1937.

Cumberland County Records: Deeds.

Fayetteville, N.C. Anderson Street Library. "Cross Creek Cemetery Records."

Fields, William. Fayetteville, North Carolina. Interview by Linda Jasperse, 27 January 1982.

Genealogical Society of Utah, compiler. "Cumberland County Marriage Bonds to 1868." Salt Lake City: 1937. (A copy is housed in Vital Statistics, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina.)

Johnson, Lucile. "Davis House and Store Are Landmarks." Fayetteville Observer 16 January 1966, E10.

Manarin, Louis H. and Jordan, Weymouth T. Jr., eds. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History (projected multivolume series 1966--).

Ninth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1870: North Carolina. Cumberland County Population Schedule. Cross Creek Township. Microfilm of National Archives Manuscript Copy. Cumberland County Core Collection, Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Tenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1880: North Carolina. Cumberland County Population Schedule. Cross Creek Township. Microfilm of National Archives Manuscript Copy. Cumberland County Core Collection, Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

